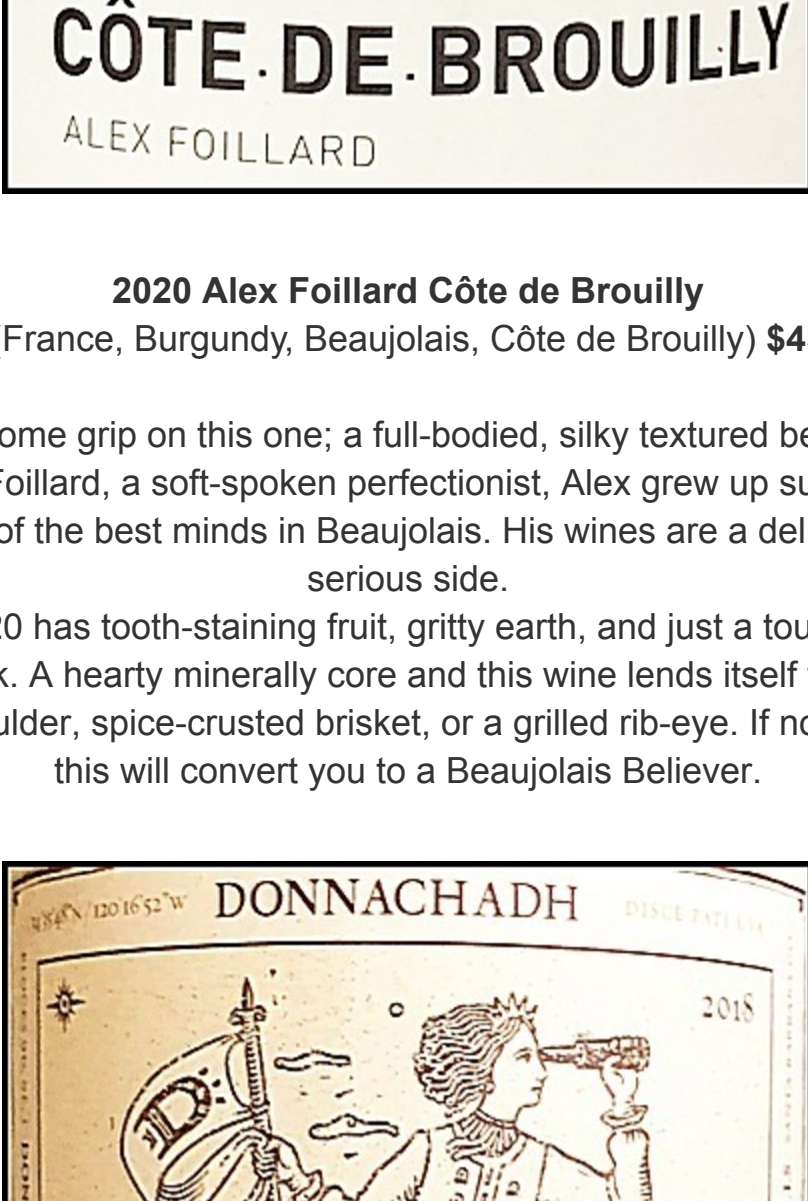


## Renegade's Top 10 of 2022

Oh, the suspense!

It was harder than we thought to select our Top 10 wines of 2022 but what it ultimately came down to were wines that were exceptional in their quality and wines that had a great story. And when these two qualities came together in a wine, well, that's what great wines are all about.

And now our Top 10 of 2022:



**2020 Alex Foillard Côte de Brouilly**  
(France, Burgundy, Beaujolais, Côte de Brouilly) **\$45**

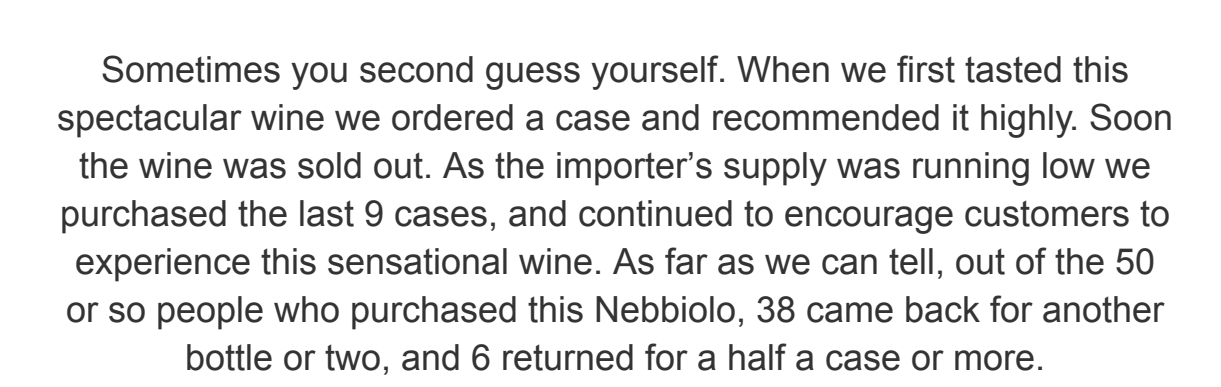
There's some grip on this one; a full-bodied, silky textured beauty. Son of Jean Foillard, a soft-spoken perfectionist, Alex grew up surrounded by some of the best minds in Beaujolais. His wines are a delight with a serious side.

This 2020 has tooth-staining fruit, gritty earth, and just a touch of the good funk. A hearty minerally core and this wine lends itself to braised pork shoulder, spice-crusted brisket, or a grilled rib-eye. If not already, this will convert you to a Beaujolais Believer.



**2019 Donnachadh Vineyard Chardonnay Donnachadh Vineyard**  
(Sta. Rita Hills) **\$68**

We've been Ho-Hum on California Chardonnays for a while; bored really. It's a category we taste all the time and there has not been anything that has wowed us lately. This all changed with our first sip of Donnachadh Chardonnay. Beautiful fruit, texture, delightful, full of beguiling pleasure. We were overjoyed and so were many of our customers. We found out later that Ernst Storm makes the wine and then everything fell into place (because everything he does is golden!). If you've been so-so on Chardonnay then give this one a shot. It will invigorate you palate for the grape once more.



**2018 Castello di Verduno Barbaresco**  
(Italy, Piedmont, Langhe, Barbaresco)

Sometimes you second guess yourself. When we first tasted this spectacular wine we ordered a case and recommended it highly. Soon the wine was sold out. As the importer's supply was running low we purchased the last 9 cases, and continued to encourage customers to experience this sensational wine. As far as we can tell, out of the 50 or so people who purchased this Nebbiolo, 38 came back for another bottle or two, and 6 returned for a half a case or more. Never second guess your palate.

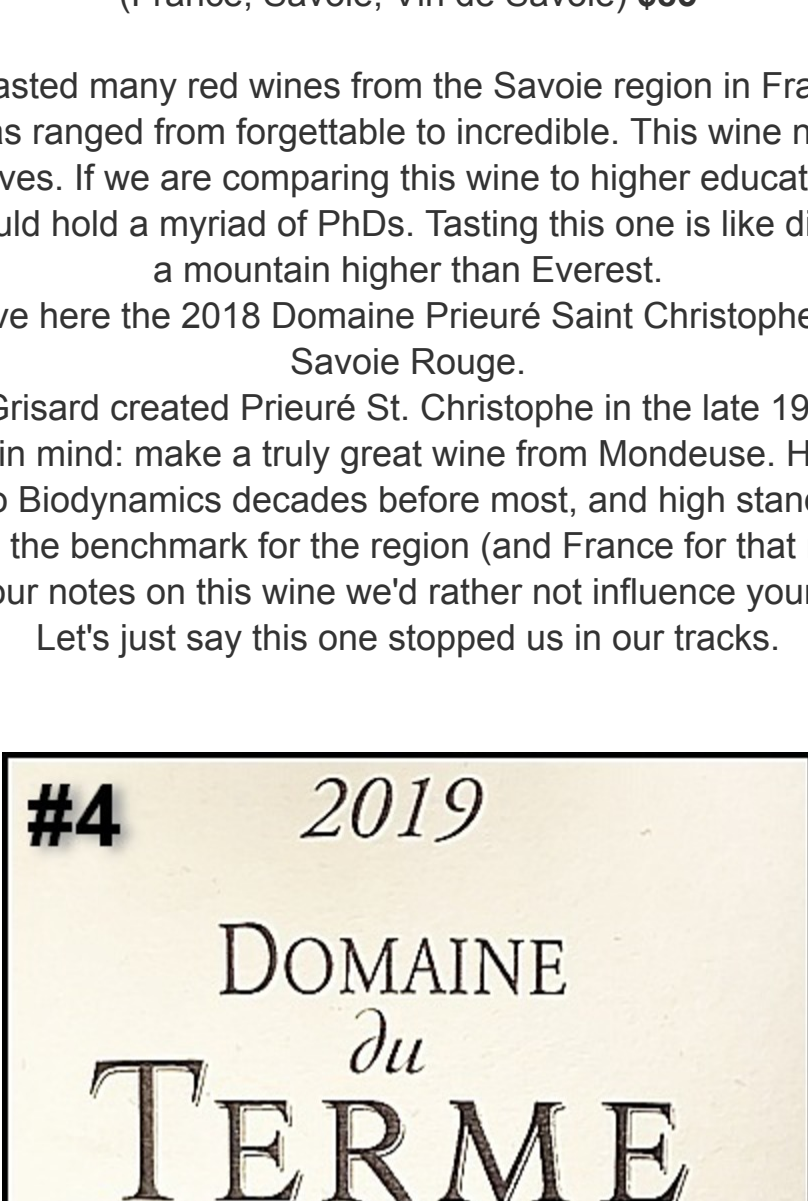


**2017 Domaine Jean-Louis Chave Hermitage Blanc**  
(France, Northern Rhône, Hermitage) **\$350**

We go way back with this wine, to the time it was still in tank at the Domaine in 2019. Our notes from that tasting were precise: fresh, exotic, brilliant. A case was delivered in August of 2020 and 'hidden' away in the Bomb Shelter at Renegade.

Fast forward to April of 2022 and curiosity got the better of us. We brought it to a White Burgundy tasting which included Chardonnays from Batard and Criots Montrachet, Corton-Charlemagne, and a few stray Pulignys from Domaine Leflaive. As custom dictates at the end of the tasting a vote was held to see what the favorite of the night was. The 2017 Chave Hermitage Blanc won hands down (hands up actually).

A wine of spectacular tension and verve. Clean and pure like a mountain glacier. A wine of profound beauty, absolutely transcendental. Breathtaking wine, again!



**2017 François Raveneau Chablis** (France, Burgundy, Chablis)

Sometimes a Monday is the perfect time to open a stunning bottle of wine. We wandered into The Boat House on a greying Monday afternoon, sat at a window table, and pulled the cork out of the Chablis. Glasses were brought over, food was ordered, first sips were experienced. Time slowed down. That's what happens when there's magic in a bottle of wine. We've experienced this with \$20 sippers and extravagant Champagnes. The 2017 Raveneau lived up to its name that day. Later, no one recalled what was ordered; only the crashing waves and the perfect glass of Chardonnay.

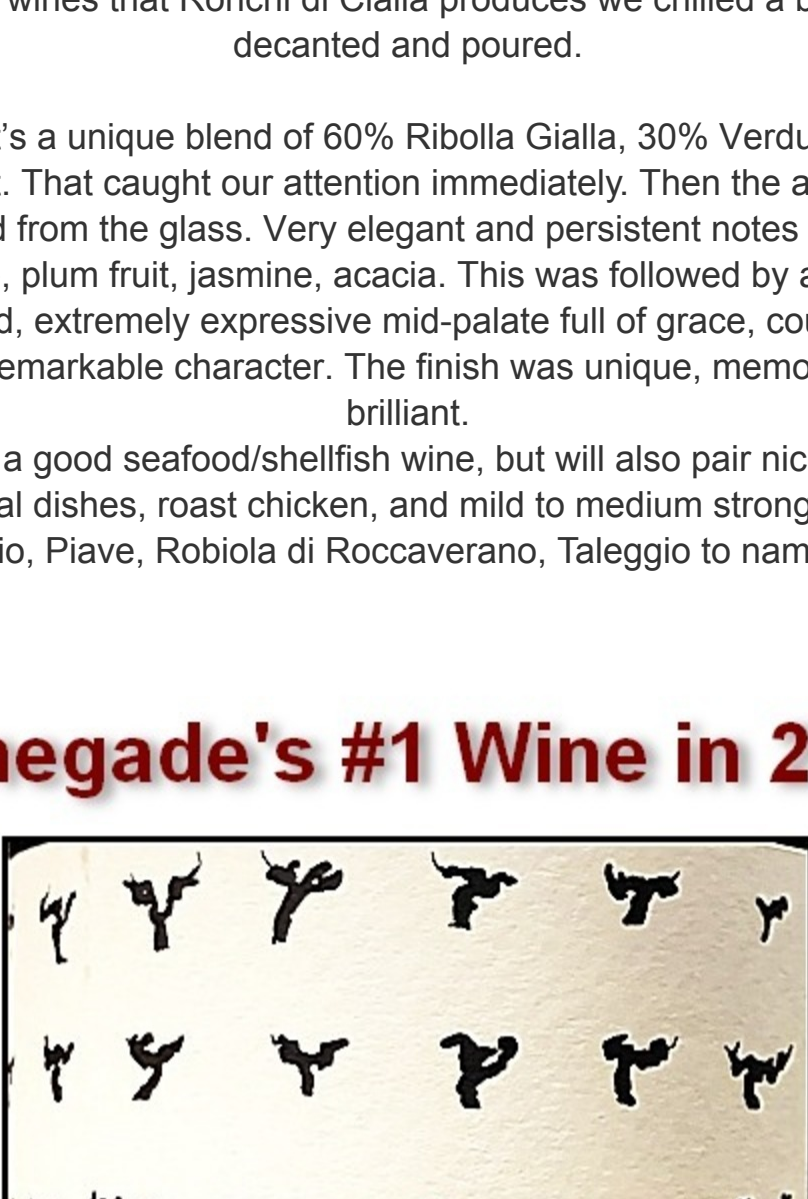


**2018 Domaine Prieuré Saint Christophe Vin de Savoie Rouge**  
(France, Savoie, Vin de Savoie) **\$85**

We've tasted many red wines from the Savoie region in France and quality has ranged from forgettable to incredible. This wine needs new adjectives. If we are comparing this wine to higher education this bottle would hold a myriad of PhDs. Tasting this one is like discovering a mountain higher than Everest.

We have here the 2018 Domaine Prieuré Saint Christophe Vin de Savoie Rouge.

Michel Gisard created Prieuré St. Christophe in the late 1970's with one goal in mind: make a truly great wine from Mondeuse. His journey led him to Biodynamics decades before most, and high standards that are still the benchmark for the region (and France for that matter). As for our notes on this wine we'd rather not influence your palate. Let's just say this one stopped us in our tracks.



**2019 Domaine Du Terme Vacqueyras**  
(France, Southern Rhône, Vacqueyras) **\$22**

A character-filled Vacqueyras that sells for a used LP (NOT Prince's 1987 record, The Black Album, which sold for \$27,500) but a good condition Joao Gilberto LP (\$22).

There's a core of red and dark fruit, hints or subtle earth and savory spice with smooth tannins and an intriguing finish. At this price you can afford to share. The blend is 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah made by the fireball winemaker Anne-Marie Gaudin.

A wine that truly out-drinks its pricepoint.

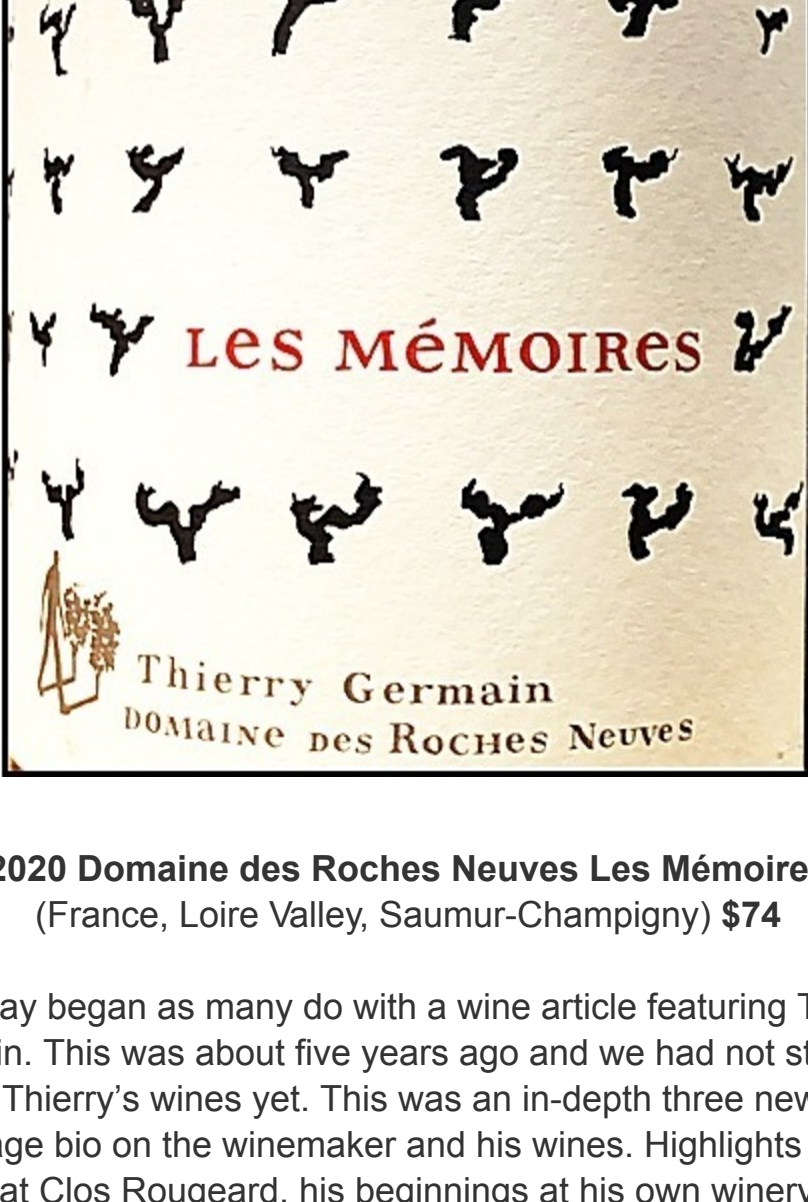


**2021 Marangona Lugana**  
(Italy, Lombardia / Veneto, Lugana) **\$22**

We take home wines weekly to enjoy. Sometimes it's to begin the evening, sometimes it's a bottle for the dinner table. Out of all the wines on this list (and at Renegade) we took this wine home the most in 2022. Perhaps because it is so versatile.

It pairs with most of our recipes and is great by itself too. Some of our favorite pairings have been with roast chicken, pesto and butter noodles, a mezze platter (hummus, olives, pita, pistachios), and even huevos rancheros with crispy hash browns. If you're reading this you've mostly likely bought a bottle of this delicious Italian white wine.

And if you haven't it's about time that you did.



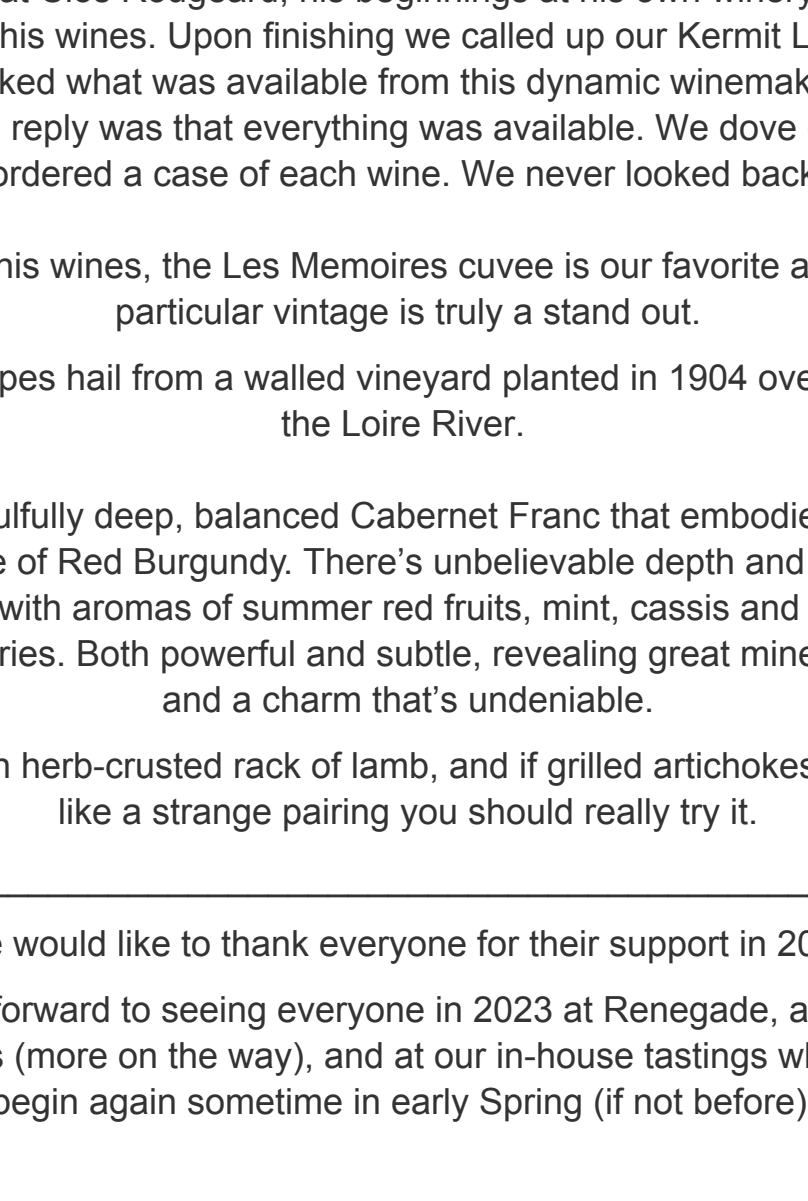
**2018 Ronchi di Cialla Bianco**  
(Italy, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Friuli Colli Orientali) **\$40**

This wine was a complete surprise for us. It was a requested wine for a wedding last summer. 21 bottles were ordered and as the wine arrives in 12 bottle cases we had 3 left over. Knowing the excellent quality of wines that Ronchi di Cialla produces we chilled a bottle then decanted and poured.

First off it's a unique blend of 60% Ribolla Gialla, 30% Verduzzo, 10% Picolit. That caught our attention immediately. Then the aromas erupted from the glass. Very elegant and persistent notes of pear, apple, plum fruit, jasmine, acacia. This was followed by a well-balanced, extremely expressive mid-palate full of grace, courtliness, and remarkable character. The finish was unique, memorable, brilliant.

This is a good seafood/shellfish wine, but will also pair nicely with lighter veal dishes, roast chicken, and mild to medium strong cheeses: Montasio, Piave, Robiola di Roccaverano, Taleggio to name a few.

## Renegade's #1 Wine in 2022



**2020 Domaine des Roches Neuves Les Mémoires**  
(France, Loire Valley, Saumur-Champigny) **\$74**

The day began as many do with a wine article featuring Thierry Germain. This was about five years ago and we had not stumbled across Thierry's wines yet. This was an in-depth three newspaper sized page bio on the winemaker and his wines. Highlights included his time at Clos Rougeard, his beginnings at his own winery, and the range of his wines. Upon finishing we called up our Kermit Lynch rep. and asked what was available from this dynamic winemaker. The fortunate reply was that everything was available. We dove deep and ordered a case of each wine. We never looked back.

Of all his wines, the Les Memoires cuvee is our favorite and this particular vintage is truly a stand out.

The grapes hail from a walled vineyard planted in 1904 overlooking the Loire River.

A soulfully deep, balanced Cabernet Franc that embodies the elegance of Red Burgundy. There's unbelievable depth and structure here with aromas of summer red fruits, mint, cassis and forest strawberries. Both powerful and subtle, revealing great mineral purity and a charm that's undeniable.

Pair with herb-crusted rack of lamb, and if grilled artichokes sounds like a strange pairing you should really try it.

We would like to thank everyone for their support in 2022.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2023 at Renegade, at our wine dinners (more on the way), and at our in-house tastings which will begin again sometime in early Spring (if not before).

Happy New Year!

Call 805.568.1961 or email us to reserve your wines.

We appreciate your support!

**Renegade Wines**

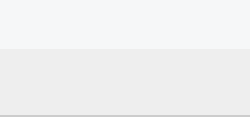
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